



Washington Progress Report

ASSASSINATION INFORMATION BUREAU

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Much ado has been made about the death rate of Kennedy assassination witnesses. Yet, few noticed that three more died recently within a week of each other. The national media certainly focussed attention on one, Oswald confidante George DeMohrenschildt, going so far as to suggest he may have been the architect of the Kennedy assassination. Curiously, ignored were the deaths of Charles Nicoletti and Carlos Prio Socarras.

Charles Nicoletti was shot in the head by unknown assailants on March 30, one day after DeMohrenschildt died. Significantly, investigators from the House Assassination Committee were trying to locate both men for questioning at the time of their deaths. Nicoletti was a top hit man for Sam Giancana and the Chicago mob, and practiced his lethal trade as far away as New Orleans and Miami. Small wonder then that he should be included in on Mob/CIA plots to kill Castro. It is alleged that Nicoletti's scheme was to kill him with a high powered rifle. Nicoletti, our sources go on to say, met with key anti-Castro people at this time, including people who were intimately involved in Haitian/Cuban exile politics and training camps at Lake Ponchartrain and No Name Key, Florida. Ironically, his boss, Sam Giancana, was murdered in 1975 at a time when the Church Committee wanted to talk to him about the same CIA/Mafia plots. Incredibly, U.P.I. reported that Nicoletti was killed because he resisted CIA efforts to take over the Chicago mob, an action alleged to have been going on since Giancana's murder.

Carlos Prio Socarras was president of Cuba from 1948 until disposed by Batista in 1952. Very wealthy and popular, he settled in Miami and was a leader and financier of anti-Castro activities. One group it is said he directed was the Second National Front of the Escambray. Prio was busted smuggling weapons with Robert McKeown, an ex-gun-runner who claims he was approached by Lee Oswald for guns and by Jack Ruby for a letter of introduction to Castro. Prio, amongst other things, was co-owner of a gambling casino with Ruby according to the FBI, and friends with Watergate Plumber, Frank Sturgis. His death was a suicide, claims the first policeman on the scene who himself was a Cuban exile, on April 5 at his Miami home.

Much about George DeMohrenschildt was never reported to the public. He had left Dallas in the spring of '63 for Haiti, and stayed until 1964, therefore casting severe doubt on the allegations by Dutch journalist Willem Oltmans that George was a key conspirator with Oswald. Also left out: his unusual activities during World War II which strongly suggests to AIB researchers an association with William Stephenson's (A Man Called Intrepid) British Security Coordination (DeMohrenschildt admitted ties to French Intelligence at this time to the Warren Commission); his activities in 1941 in Mexico, from which he was deported for spying with Roderick MacArthur, nephew



of the U.S. General and son of John, the insurance billionaire. (It was a president of one of John MacArthur's insurance companies who helped finance Jack Ruby's first night club); his employment with the Cuban-Venezuela Trust in 1957, some of whose directors would be intimately involved in Cuban "revolutionary" groups, including the training camp at Lake Ponchartrain. For you serious scholars, we believe there's a possibility that DeMohrenschildt was "babysitting" Marina Oswald upon her arrival from Russia, much in the same way he was keeping tabs on Abwehr agent Constatine Maydell during WW II.

The search for a new chief counsel for the House Assassination Committee continues. Chairman Louis Stokes has said that the Committee would like to hire someone with a national reputation, an "Archibald Cox type figure", but expressed doubt that such a person would take the job in the wake of the committee's recent troubles. Little information is available on exactly who is being considered for the position. A final decision is expected by mid-May.

The AIB has submitted the name of Charles Morgan, Jr. to Chairman Stokes for consideration as chief counsel. Morgan has several outstanding qualifications that make him well suited for the task. Among these qualifications are:

1) Mr. Morgan has defended some of the most controversial cases of our time, including: the appeal of world heavyweight champion, Muhammed Ali; Army proceedings involving LTC Anthony B. Herbert; the Georgia General Assembly's exclusion from membership of then Representative-elect Julian Bond. As director of the A.C.L.U. in Washington, he led their efforts to impeach Richard Nixon.

2) Mr. Morgan has served as the principal attorney in numerous civil rights cases, several of which were argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. He opened the Southern Regional office of the A.C.L.U. in Atlanta, GA., served as its director from 1964-72, and organized A.C.L.U. efforts throughout the South.

3) Since 1975, he has supervised a Freedom of Information Act suit to obtain intelligence documents relating to the Hughes-CIA Glomar Explorer. Morgan personally discovered the existence of the then secret Glomar Explorer in the early '70's through a link-up of previously disparate pieces of information. In 1975, he created and supervised the A.C.L.U. Intelligence Reform Package which is currently before the U.S. House (HR#6051). In February 1977, Morgan was appointed by President Carter to the 9-member committee searching for a new FBI Director.

Mr. Morgan has no previous identification with any assassination investigations. He has demonstrated a sensitivity to the manner in which Congressional Committees operate, and an ability to administer large staffs. He also has an excellent national media reputation and consequently, an important capacity for weathering the storm of controversy that will inevitably arise, no matter who is chosen chief counsel.





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CE 399, the key-figure in both the Magic Bullet Theory and the Oswald-as-Lone-Nut Hypothesis, expired today after a lifelong and consistently downhill struggle with Terminal Unbelievability.

CE 399, a child of necessity, was born during the first weeks of deliberation by the Warren Commission.. After its debut in the Warren Commission's Report, many critics attacked it on such grounds as the angle of its passage through JFK's neck varied significantly from its angle of passage through Connally's chest, the time lag between when it hit Kennedy and when it hit Connally, and the amount of fragments it is said to have left behind in Connally.

Even Dr. Robert Shaw, the man who operated on Connally on the 22nd, doubted the bullet's story. 399 "just didn't seem to have lost enough of its metallic substance", Shaw told a reporter in a recent interview in the Dallas Morning News.

The good doctor may lay his doubts about the lack of fragments to rest. House Assassination Committee investigators interviewed two witnesses who said they saw more fragments taken from Connally than the Warren Commission admitted came from the ex-Democrat or were missing from the nearly intact bullet, CE 399.

Audrey N. Bell, head nurse of the operating room Connally was taken to after the assassination, stated that she was given four or five fragments from Connally's right wrist to put in an envelope, which she turned over to the FBI.

Miss Bell's statement to the House investigators was augmented by the testimony of Texas State Highway officer Charles W. Harbison. He told investigators that on November 25 or 26, while Connally was being transferred to a private room, he turned over to an FBI agent three more bullet fragments that fell from Connally's leg.

When informed of these developments at its residence in the National Archives, CE 399, according to those present, became agitated, rolled around, then disintegrated.

Commander J.J. Humes will perform the autopsy.

Jim Kostman, AIB Research Director and Berkeley professor, has prepared a short working summary on mobster Santos Trafficante, who pled the fifth before the House Assassination Committee. This paper, which was distributed to the Committee and media in Washington, is available from the AIB at the cost of one dollar (\$1). Background and research summaries on other key people will be available from us in the future.

The address of the AIB's Washington office is 1322 18th St., NW, Number 21, Washington, D.C. 20036. Development of our D.C. office is progressing according to schedule, and will be fully operational by the time a new chief counsel is chosen for the Assassination Committee. For the very first time, a public-interest research group will be monitoring an official investigation into the Kennedy and King murders.



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